

*Chronology of Major Events  
in the History of the  
Louisiana State Archives*

***1935***

**Noted Louisiana historian, Dr. Edwin A. Davis, convinced the administration of Louisiana State University that it should establish and fund an independent Department of Archives and Manuscripts to collect and preserve archival materials. Dr. Davis was then appointed director of the university archives.**

***1936***

**Dr. Davis spearheaded passage of legislation enabling the university to act as the repository for public records of state government. Act 258 empowered the university to collect state documents and authorized officials to submit their records to the repository.**

***1937 1941***

**Dr. John Andreassen directed the Historical Records Survey of Louisiana.**

***1940***

**The Public Records Act of 1940 (Act 195) stipulated that virtually all records generated for the conduct of business under the authority of the State of Louisiana were declared public records.**

***1954***

**Dr. Davis took temporary leave of his post at Louisiana State University to spearhead the effort to establish a viable state archives.**

***1956***

**Dr. Davis spearheaded passage of the State Archives and Records Act (Act 337 of the 1956 Regular Session) signed by Governor Earl Kemp Long establishing the State Archives and Records Service as an independent agency under the aegis of the State Archives and Records Commission composed of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the State Auditor.**

***1958***

**Dr. John Andreassen was appointed Director of the Louisiana Archives and Records Commission.**

***1960***

**John E. Regard was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.**

***August 1961***

**State Archives under the direction of John E. Regard acquired the historically significant colonial and territorial records from Avoyelles Parish. Also acquired shortly after that were the extensive records of the French Colonial Post at Opelousas.**

***1965***

**Raymond Downs was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.**

***1966***

**A. Otis Hebert was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.**

***December 1966***

**Provisions made by the state for removing the State Archives from Peabody Hall on the LSU campus to a renovated motorcycle dealer's warehouse on Choctaw Drive.**

***1972***

**The State Archives and Records Commission was abolished and the State Archives became a division of then Secretary of State Wade O. Martin's Office.**

***1974***

**Dr. Donald Lemieux was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Service.**

***June 15, 1979***

**Secretary of State Paul Hardy announced that the state had purchased a site for the new State Archives building at a cost of \$598,000.**

***July 12, 1982***

**Funding for planning and construction of the State Archives building was approved by the Legislature.**

***November 1984***

**Construction began on the State Archives building.**

***August 24, 1987***

**The State Archives building was officially dedicated during the administration of Secretary of State Jim Brown.**

***April 5, 2000***

**Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr. was appointed State Archivist and Director of the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management.**

***July 9-13, 2001***

**Archives Week Celebration: “Celebrate the Past...Prepare for a Better Future”**

***July 8-14, 2002***

**Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen proclaimed Louisiana State Archives Week celebrating the 45th Anniversary of State Archives: “Celebrate the Past...Prepare for a Better Future”.**

***October 10, 2002***

**Archives Week Celebration: “Preserving Louisiana’s History Today; Recognition of Louisiana Legislators and Their Families Who in 1956 Authored Act 337 establishing the Louisiana State Archives”**

***October 1-3, 2003***

**Archives Week Celebration: “Celebrate History: Use It and Preserve It”**

***October 8, 2004***

**Archives Week Celebration: “Disaster Planning, Vital Records and Unforeseen Disasters”**

***July 15, 2005***

**Secretary of State Walter Fox McKeithen resigns and First Assistant Al Ater is appointed to fill his unexpired term.**

***November 10, 2005***

**Archives Week Celebration: National Archivist's Visit Post Hurricane Katrina**

***October 12, 2006***

**Archives Week Celebration: Symposium: “Protecting Louisiana’s Historical Records In Emergencies”**

***November 10, 2006***

**Jay Dardenne is sworn in as Secretary of State**

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